

February 13, 2018

The Honorable Roy Blunt
Chairman
Senate LHHS-ED Appropriations
Subcommittee
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray
Ranking Member
Senate LHHS-ED Appropriations
Subcommittee
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
House LHHS-ED Appropriations
Subcommittee
2467 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
House LHHS-ED Appropriations
Subcommittee
2413 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Chairman Blunt, Chairman Cole, Ranking Member Murray, and Ranking Member DeLauro:

Today, for the second year in a row, President Trump's administration once again proposed to eliminate funding support for local afterschool and summer learning programs through the 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) initiative, potentially leaving without access millions of students and parents who depend on these programs. As national organizations that support local afterschool and summer learning programs serving millions of students nationwide, we call on Congress to continue to strengthen the federal commitment to these important programs.

Local afterschool and summer learning programs aided by the 21st CCLC are effective in supporting academic success for students, giving parents peace of mind, and helping keep children safe both offline and online. 21st CCLC has a long established record of success at helping young people and parents achieve a myriad of positive outcomes.ⁱ

Last year, lawmakers from both sides of the political aisle pushed back aggressively on the Administration's proposal, expressing concern because they, too, recognized that children, families, businesses and our economy need quality afterschool programs to continue helping students succeed in school and in life. These programs support student achievement by providing academic assistance, STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) education, mentoring, physical activities, healthy meals and snacks, robotics, computer programming, college-and job-readiness, substance abuse prevention, community service, opportunities for hands-on learning and much more. With the new bipartisan budget deal that passed last week, we further call on Congress to complete its work in FY18 strengthening the federal 21st CCLC commitment to young people and families.

The current federal investment in afterschool is modest, but it is absolutely vital to families and communities across the country, supporting afterschool and summer learning for almost 2 million children. Still, for every child now in an afterschool program, two more are waiting to get in. At this time when one in five children nationally is unsupervised after the school day ends, we should be increasing our investment in afterschool programs, not cutting the funding we have. A modest increase up to \$1.3 billion for 21st CCLC would mean an additional 100,000 young people in grades pre-K through 12th grade would gain access to quality afterschool and summer programming.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

ⁱA meta-analysis by the Collaborative for Academic, Social and Emotional Learning (CASEL) that examined 75 studies of 68 afterschool programs found that students who participated in an afterschool program exhibited improved behavior and performed better academically than students who did not participate in a program. (Durlak, et.al., 2010)

Signed:

Afterschool Alliance

After-School All-Stars

American Camp Association

America SCORES

Boys and Girls Clubs of America

Child Care Aware® of America

Children's Leadership Council

Communities In Schools

Every Hour Counts

Food Research & Action Center

Girls Inc.

National AfterSchool Association

National Association for Family, School and Community Engagement

National Girls Collaborative

National League of Cities

National Recreation and Park Association

National Summer Learning Association

Save the Children

YMCA of the USA